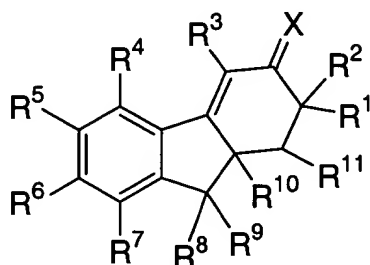


IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Amended) A compound of the formula:



wherein X is selected from the group consisting of: O, N-OR^a, N-NR^aR^b and C₁-6 alkylidene, wherein said alkylidene group is unsubstituted or substituted with a group selected from hydroxy, amino, O(C₁-4alkyl), NH(C₁-4alkyl), or N(C₁-4alkyl)₂;

R¹ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁-6alkyl, C₂-6alkenyl, and C₂-6alkynyl, wherein said alkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl groups are either unsubstituted or substituted with a group selected from OR^c, SR^c, NR^bR^c, C(=O)R^c, C(=O)CH₂OH, or phenyl, wherein said phenyl group can either be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C₁-4alkyl, OH, O(C₁-4alkyl), NH₂, NH(C₁-4alkyl), NH(C₁-4alkyl)₂, halo, CN, NO₂, CO₂H, CO₂(C₁-4alkyl), C(O)H, and C(O)(C₁-4alkyl);

R² is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, iodo, O(C=O)R^c, C(=O)R^c, CO₂R^c, C₁-6alkyl, C₂-6alkenyl, and C₂-6alkynyl, wherein said alkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl groups are either unsubstituted or substituted with a group selected from OR^c, SR^c, NR^bR^c, C(=O)R^c, C(=O)CH₂OH, or phenyl, wherein said phenyl group can either be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C₁-4alkyl, OH, O(C₁-4alkyl), NH₂, NH(C₁-4alkyl), NH(C₁-4alkyl)₂, halo, CN, NO₂, CO₂H, CO₂(C₁-4alkyl), C(O)H, and C(O)(C₁-4alkyl);
or R¹ and R², when taken together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a carbonyl group;

or R¹ and R², when taken together, form a C₁₋₆ alkylidene group, wherein said alkylidene group is either unsubstituted or substituted with a group selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, O(C₁₋₄alkyl), N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂, and phenyl, wherein said phenyl group can either be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₄alkyl, OH, O(C₁₋₄alkyl), NH₂, NH(C₁₋₄alkyl), NH(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂, halo, CN, NO₂, CO₂H, CO₂(C₁₋₄alkyl), C(O)H, and C(O)(C₁₋₄alkyl);

R³ is selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, cyano, NR^aR^c, OR^a, C(=O)R^a, CO₂R^c, CONR^aR^c, SR^a, S(=O)R^a, SO₂R^a, C₁₋₁₀alkyl, C₂₋₁₀alkenyl, C₂₋₁₀alkynyl, C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, oxiranyl, azetidiny, pyrrolidiny, piperidiny, piperaziny, morpholino, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, pyrrolyl, furyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, benzimidazolyl, indolyl, purinyl and arylalkyl, wherein said alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, pyrrolyl, furyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, benzimidazolyl, indolyl and purinyl groups are either unsubstituted or independently substituted with 1, 2 or 3 groups selected from fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, cyano, OR^a, NR^aR^c, O(C=O)R^a, O(C=O)NR^aR^c, NR^a(C=O)R^c, NR^a(C=O)OR^c, C(=O)R^a, CO₂R^a, CONR^aR^c, CSNR^aR^c, SR^a, S(O)R^a, SO₂R^a, SO₂NR^aR^c, YR^d, and ZYR^d;

R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and fluoro;

R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, amino, OR^b, OR^a, O(C=O)R^c, O(C=O)OR^c, and NH(C=O)R^c;

R⁶ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, OR^b, OR^a, O(C=O)R^c, and O(C=O)OR^c;

R⁷ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, OR^b, NR^bR^c, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, cyano, nitro, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, CF₃, and CHF₂;

R⁸ and R⁹ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, and C₂₋₆alkynyl,

or R⁸ and R⁹, when taken together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a 3-5 membered cycloalkyl ring,

or R⁸ and R⁹, when taken together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a carbonyl group;

R¹⁰ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₁₀alkyl, C₂₋₁₀alkenyl, C₂₋₁₀alkynyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, pyrrolyl, furyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, benzimidazolyl, indolyl, purinyl and π arylalkyl, wherein said alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, pyrrolyl, furyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, benzimidazolyl, indolyl, puriny and arylalkyl groups can be optionally substituted with a group selected from chloro, bromo, iodo, OR^b, SR^b, C(=O)R^b, or 1-5 fluoro, or R¹⁰ and R¹, when taken together with the three intervening carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a 5-6 membered cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl ring which can be optionally substituted with 1 or 2 groups selected from oxo, hydroxy, or C₁₋₆alkyl;

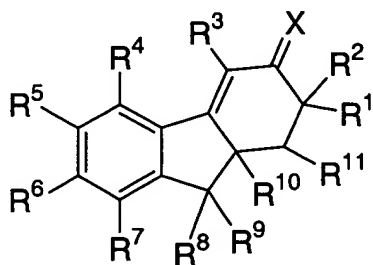
R¹¹ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C₁₋₄alkyl;

R^a is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₁₀alkyl, and phenyl, wherein said alkyl group can be optionally substituted with a group selected from hydroxy, amino, O(C₁₋₄alkyl), NH(C₁₋₄alkyl), N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂, phenyl, or 1-5 fluoro, and wherein said phenyl groups can either be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₄alkyl, OH, O(C₁₋₄alkyl), NH₂, NH(C₁₋₄alkyl), NH(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂, halo, CN, NO₂, CO₂H, CO₂(C₁₋₄alkyl), C(O)H, and C(O)(C₁₋₄alkyl);

R^b is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₁₀alkyl, benzyl and phenyl, wherein said phenyl group can either be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₄alkyl, OH, O(C₁₋₄alkyl), NH₂, NH(C₁₋₄alkyl), NH(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂, halo, CN, NO₂, CO₂H, CO₂(C₁₋₄alkyl), C(O)H, and C(O)(C₁₋₄alkyl);

R^c is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-10} alkyl and phenyl, wherein said phenyl group can either be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C_{1-4} alkyl, OH, $O(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), NH_2 , $NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl) $_2$, halo, CN, NO_2 , CO_2H , $CO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $C(O)H$, and $C(O)(C_{1-4}$ alkyl);
 or R^a and R^c , whether or not on the same atom, can be taken together with any attached and intervening atoms to form a 4-7 membered ring;
 R^d is selected from the group consisting of NR^bR^c , OR^a , CO_2R^a , $O(C=O)R^a$, CN, $NR^c(C=O)R^b$, $CONR^aR^c$, $SO_2NR^aR^c$, and a 4-7 membered N-heterocycloalkyl ring that can be optionally interrupted by O, S, NR^c , or $C=O$;
 Y is selected from the group consisting of CR^bR^c , C_{2-6} alkylene and C_{2-6} alkenylene, wherein said alkylene and alkenylene linkers can be optionally interrupted by O, S, or NR^c ;
 Z is selected from the group consisting of O, S, NR^c , $C=O$, $O(C=O)$, $(C=O)O$, $NR^c(C=O)$ or $(C=O)NR^c$;
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

2. (Previously Amended) A compound of the formula:



wherein X is selected from the group consisting of O and $N-OR^a$;
 R^1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C_{1-6} alkyl, wherein said alkyl group is either unsubstituted or substituted with a group selected from OR^c or $C(=O)R^c$;

- R^2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, iodo, and C_{1-6} alkyl, wherein said alkyl group is either unsubstituted or substituted with a group selected from OR^c or $C(=O)R^c$;
- R^3 is selected from the group consisting of chloro, bromo, iodo, cyano, C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl, aryl, pyrrolyl, furyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, benzimidazolyl, indolyl and purinyl wherein said alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, pyrrolyl, furyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, benzimidazolyl, indolyl and purinyl groups are either unsubstituted or independently substituted with 1, 2 or 3 groups selected from fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, cyano, OR^a , NR^aR^c , $C(=O)R^a$, CO_2R^c , $NR^aC(=O)R^c$, $CONR^aR^c$, $CSNR^aR^c$, SR^a , YR^d , and ZYR^d ;
- R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and fluoro;
- R^5 and R^6 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluoro, $O(C=O)R^c$ and OR^a ;
- R^7 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, NR^bR^c , chloro, bromo, nitro and C_{1-6} alkyl;
- R^8 and R^9 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C_{1-6} alkyl;
or R^8 and R^9 , when taken together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a carbonyl group;
- R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and cycloalkylalkyl, wherein said alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl and cycloalkylalkyl groups can be optionally substituted with a group selected from OR^b , SR^b , $C(=O)R^b$, or 1-5 fluoro;
or R^{10} and R^1 , when taken together with the three intervening carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a 5-6 membered cycloalkyl ring which can be optionally substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl;
- R^{11} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C_{1-4} alkyl;
- R^a is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-10} alkyl, and phenyl, wherein said alkyl group can be optionally substituted with a group selected from hydroxy, amino, $O(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)₂, phenyl, or 1-5 fluoro;

R^b is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-10} alkyl, benzyl and phenyl;

R^c is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C_{1-10} alkyl and phenyl; or R^a and R^c , whether or not on the same atom, can be taken together with any attached and intervening atoms to form a 4-7 membered ring;

R^d is selected from the group consisting of NR^bR^c , OR^a , CO_2R^a , $O(C=O)R^a$, CN, $NR^c(C=O)R^b$, $CONR^aR^c$, $SO_2NR^aR^c$, and a 4-7 membered N-heterocycloalkyl ring that can be optionally interrupted by O, S, NR^c , or $C=O$;

Y is selected from the group consisting of CR^bR^c , C_{2-6} alkylene and C_{2-6} alkenylene, wherein said alkylene and alkenylene linkers can be optionally interrupted by O, S, or NR^c ;

Z is selected from the group consisting of O, S, NR^c , $C=O$, $O(C=O)$, $(C=O)O$, $NR^c(C=O)$ or $(C=O)NR^c$;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

3. (Previously Amended) The compound according to Claim 2, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of O, N-OH and N-OCH₃, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

4. (Previously Amended) The compound according to Claim 3, wherein R^6 is selected from the group consisting of OR^a and $O(C=O)R^c$ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) The compound according to Claim 4, wherein R^3 is selected from the group consisting of ~~hydrogen~~, chloro, bromo, iodo, cyano, C_{1-10} alkyl, aryl, pyrrolyl, furyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, benzimidazolyl, indolyl and purinyl wherein said alkyl, aryl, pyrrolyl, furyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, benzimidazolyl, indolyl and purinyl groups are either unsubstituted or independently substituted with 1, 2 or 3 groups selected from fluoro, chloro,

bromo, cyano, $\text{NR}^{\text{a}}\text{R}^{\text{c}}$, $\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{R}^{\text{a}}$, $\text{CO}_2\text{R}^{\text{c}}$, $\text{CONR}^{\text{a}}\text{R}^{\text{c}}$, SR^{a} , YR^{d} , and ZYR^{d} , or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

6. (Previously Amended) The compound according to Claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

4-bromo-7-hydroxy-9a-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

(3*E*)-9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one oxime;

9a-[(1*E*)-1-butenyl]-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

4-bromo-9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

4-bromo-9a-butyl-3-methylene-2,3,9,9a-tetrahydro-1*H*-fluoren-7-ol;

9a-butyl-4-cyano-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

4-benzyl-9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a butyl-7-hydroxy-4-(2-thienyl)-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-ene;

9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-4-{4-[2-(1-piperidinyl)ethoxy]phenyl}-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one hydrochloride;

9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-4-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

(2*E*)-3-[4-(9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-3-oxo-2,3,9,9a-tetrahydro-1*H*-fluoren-4-yl)phenyl]-2-propenoic acid;

~~9a butyl 7 hydroxy 8 methyl 1,2,9,9a 3*H* tetrahydro fluoren 3 one;~~

4-bromo-9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-8-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a butyl-4,8-dimethyl-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-butyl-8-chloro-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

(2*SR*,9a*SR*)-9a-butyl-2,4-dimethyl-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

(2*SR*,9a*RS*)-9a-butyl-2,4-dimethyl-7-hydroxy-2-propyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-2,2,4-trimethyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

(2*SR*,9a*RS*)-9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-2-iodo-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

(2*SR*,9a*RS*)-9a-butyl-2,7-dihydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

(2*RS*,9a*SR*)-9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-2-(2-hydroxyethyl)-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

(2*SR*,9a*SR*)-2-allyl-9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

(2*RS*,9a*SR*)-9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-2-(3-hydroxy-2-oxopropyl)-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

(9*SR*,9a*SR*)-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-9-propyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-butyl-8-chloro-7-hydroxy-4-(trifluoromethyl)-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

4-acetyl-9a-butyl-8-chloro-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-butyl-8-chloro-4-cyano-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-butyl-4-ethyl-6-fluoro-7-hydroxy-8-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-butyl-8-chloro-6-fluoro-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-butyl-8-chloro-4-ethyl-6-fluoro-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

4-bromo-9a-butyl-8-chloro-6-fluoro-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-butyl-8-chloro-6-fluoro-7-hydroxy-4-(trifluoromethyl)-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

2-hydroxy-5-methylgibba-1(10a),2,4,4b-tetraen-6-one;

4-bromo-9a-butyl-3-oxo-2,3,9,9a-1*H*-fluoren-7-yl pivalate;

7-hydroxy-4,9a-dimethyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-ethyl-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

7-hydroxy-4-methyl-9a-propyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

7-hydroxy-9a-isobutyl-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-butyl-4-ethyl-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-4-propyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

4,9a-dibutyl-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-butyl-4-chloro-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-4-iodo-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-4-trifluoromethyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-4-phenyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-butyl-4-(2-furyl)-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

7-hydroxy-9a-(3-iodopropyl)-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

7-hydroxy-4-methyl-9a-(2-methyl-1-propenyl)-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-butyl-4-{4-[2-(dimethylamino)ethoxy]phenyl}-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one hydrochloride;

9a-butyl-4-{4-[2-(diethylamino)ethoxy]-phenyl}-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one hydrochloride;

9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-4-{4-[2-(1-pyrrolidinyl)ethoxy]phenyl}-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one hydrochloride;

9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-4-{4-[2-(4-morpholinyl)ethoxy]phenyl}-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one hydrochloride;

9a-butyl-4-{4-[3-(dimethylamino)propoxy]-phenyl}-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one hydrochloride;

9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-4-{4-[3-(1-piperidinyl)propoxy]phenyl}-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3H-fluoren-3-one hydrochloride;

(3E)-9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3H-fluoren-3-one *O*-methyloxime;

(2SR,9aSR)-9a-butyl-2-ethyl-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3H-fluoren-3-one;

~~(2SR,9aSR)-9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-2-propyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3H-fluoren-3-one;~~

(2SR,9aSR)-9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-2-propyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3H-fluoren-3-one;

(2SR,9aSR)-4,9a-dibutyl-7-hydroxy-2-propyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3H-fluoren-3-one;

(2SR,9aSR)-4-bromo-9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-2-propyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3H-fluoren-3-one;

~~(2RS,9aSR)-9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-2-(2-oxoethyl)-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3H-fluoren-3-one;~~

(2SR,9aSR)-2,9a-dibutyl-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3H-fluoren-3-one;

(2RS,9aRS)-9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-2,4-dimethyl-2-propyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3H-fluoren-3-one;

~~9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-2,2-dipropyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3H-fluoren-3-one;~~

9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-2,2-dipropyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3H-fluoren-3-one;

(2*SR*,9*aSR*)-9*a*-butyl-2,7-dihydroxy-4-methyl-2-propyl-1,2,9,9*a*-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

4-bromo-9*a*-butyl-2,2-diethyl-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9*a*-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

(2*SR*,9*aSR*)-7-hydroxy-2,4,9*a*-trimethyl-1,2,9,9*a*-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

(2*SR*,9*aSR*)-7-hydroxy-4,9*a*-dimethyl-2-propyl-1,2,9,9*a*-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

(2*SR*,9*aSR*)-9*a*-butyl-8-chloro-2-ethyl-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9*a*-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

8-chloro-9*a*-ethyl-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9*a*-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

8-bromo-9*a*-ethyl-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9*a*-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9*a*-ethyl-7-hydroxy-4,8-dimethyl-1,2,9,9*a*-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

8-chloro-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-9*a*-propyl-1,2,9,9*a*-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

8-bromo-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-9*a*-propyl-1,2,9,9*a*-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

7-hydroxy-4,8-dimethyl-9*a*-propyl-1,2,9,9*a*-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

8-chloro-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-9*a*-[(1*E*)-1-propenyl]-1,2,9,9*a*-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

8-bromo-9*a*-butyl-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9*a*-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9*a*-butyl-7-hydroxy-4,8-dimethyl-1,2,9,9*a*-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9*a*-butyl-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-8-nitro-1,2,9,9*a*-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

8-amino-9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;
9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-4-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-8-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-
fluoren-3-one;

9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-8-methyl-4-{4-[2-piperidiny]-ethoxy}phenyl}-1,2,9,9a-
tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

4-bromo-7-hydroxy-9a-propyl-1*H*-fluorene-3,9(2*H*,9a*H*)-dione;

4,8-dibromo-7-hydroxy-9a-propyl-1*H*-fluorene-3,9(2*H*,9a*H*)-dione;

4-bromo-9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-6-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-butyl-8-chloro-4-methyl-3-oxo-2,3,9,9a-tetrahydro-1*H*-fluoren-7-yl pivalate;

9a-butyl-6,8-difluoro-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-butyl-4-ethyl-6,8-difluoro-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

4-bromo-9a-butyl-6,8-difluoro-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

8-bromo-9a-butyl-4-chloro-8-difluoro-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-
3-one;

9a-butyl-4,8-dibromo-6-fluoro-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-ethyl-6-fluoro-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-ethyl-6,8-difluoro-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

8-chloro-9a-ethyl-6-fluoro-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-
one;

8-bromo-9a-ethyl-6-fluoro-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-ethyl-6-fluoro-7-hydroxy-4,8-dimethyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

4,9a-diethyl-6,8-difluoro-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

4-bromo-8-chloro-9a-ethyl-6-fluoro-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

4-bromo-8-chloro-9a-(cyclopentylmethyl)-6-fluoro-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-ethyl-5-fluoro-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

8-bromo-9a-ethyl-5-fluoro-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-ethyl-6,7-dihydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

8-bromo-9a-ethyl-6,7-dihydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-ethyl-6-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

9a-ethyl-6-hydroxy-4-vinyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

4-allyl-9a-ethyl-6-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

~~2-hydroxy-5-methyl-7,8,9,10-tetrahydro-7,10a-methanocycloocta[*a*]inden-6(11*H*)-one;~~

7-amino-4-bromo-9a-butyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

7-amino-4,8-dibromo-9a-ethyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

7. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

8. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition made by combining a compound according to Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

9. (Original) A process for making a pharmaceutical composition comprising combining a compound according to Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10.-18. Cancelled

19. (Previously Amended) A method of treating hot flashes in a mammal in need thereof by administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1.

20.-21. Cancelled

22. (Previously Added) The compound of Claim 6 which is 9a-ethyl-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

23. (Previously Added) The compound of Claim 6 which is 9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

24. (Previously Added) The compound of Claim 6 which is 4-bromo-9a-butyl-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

25. (Previously Added) The compound of Claim 6 which is 9a-butyl-8-chloro-7-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

26. (Previously Added) The compound of Claim 6 which is 9a-butyl-8-chloro-4-cyano-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

27. (Previously Added) The compound of Claim 6 which is 9a-ethyl-6-fluoro-7-hydroxy-4,8-dimethyl-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

28. (Previously Added) The compound of Claim 6 which is 4-bromo-8-chloro-9a-ethyl-6-fluoro-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

29. (Previously Added) The compound of Claim 6 which is 4-bromo-9a-butyl-8-chloro-6-fluoro-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

30. (Previously Added) The compound of Claim 6 which is 9a-butyl-8-chloro-6-fluoro-7-hydroxy-4-(trifluoromethyl)-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

31. (Previously Added) The compound of Claim 6 which is 4-bromo-8-chloro-9a-(cyclopentylmethyl)-6-fluoro-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

32. (Previously Added) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Claim 1 and an organic bisphosphonate or a cathepsin K inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or mixture thereof.

33. (Previously Added) The composition of Claim 32 wherein the bisphosphonate is selected from alendronate, clodronate, etidronate, ibandronate,

incadronate, minodronate, neridronate, risedronate, piridronate, pamidronate, tiludronate, zoledronate, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters or mixtures thereof.

34. (Previously Added) The composition of Claim 33 wherein the bisphosphonate is alendronate.

35. (Previously Added) A method of treating hot flashes comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof a compound of Claim 1 and an organic bisphosphonate or a cathepsin K inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or mixture thereof.

36. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 35 wherein the bisphosphonate is selected from alendronate, clodronate, etidronate, ibandronate, incadronate, minodronate, neridronate, risedronate, piridronate, pamidronate, tiludronate, zoledronate, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters or mixtures thereof.

37. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 36 wherein the bisphosphonate is alendronate.

38. (Previously Added) A method of treating depression comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof a compound of Claim 1 and an organic bisphosphonate or a cathepsin K inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or mixture thereof.

39. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 38 wherein the bisphosphonate is selected from alendronate, clodronate, etidronate, ibandronate, incadronate, minodronate, neridronate, risedronate, piridronate, pamidronate, tiludronate, zoledronate, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters or mixtures thereof.

40. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 39 wherein the bisphosphonate is alendronate.

41. (New) 4-bromo-9a-butyl-8-chloro-6-fluoro-7-hydroxy-1,2,9,9a-tetrahydro-3*H*-fluoren-3-one or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.